Supplement to the Descriptive List---1939

Calcutta (36)—A soft cocoa-brown blend overlaid with a bluish veiling. Taller, larger and lighter in tone than Jean Cayeux, but no prettier, for the latter has a soft, lovely richness of its own, as yet unexcelled in this color class.

Chromylla (26)—A uniform, attractive shade of chrome yellow; medium size blooms. A. M. by the A. I. S.

Copper Lustre (30)—A glowing blend of coppery-gold, pinkish-tan and lavender. Large bloom of fine shape and one of the most discussed and admired of recent introductions because of its unusual coloring. Awarded the Dykes medal by the A. I. S. in '38.

Desert Dawn (36)—Described as a lovely blend of yellow and lavender, of fine form and habits; it reminds us of the old Afterglow, but is taller, larger and much prettier. Very late and one of the last to go, along with Topazin, Coronation and Bronze Glory.

Easter Morn (32)—Pure, glistening white, with a rich yellow beard giving it a warmth of color in the center of the bloom that is very attractive. Fine form, good substance, large and tall.

Ethel Guill (38)—Large and tall, with S. of petunia-violet, shaded rose; F. purple overlaid rich garnet-brown. Very much like My Maryland, but with a stronger stem and slightly richer coloring. A fine variety and about the last word in this color class; an origination of the late Col. Ayars of Takoma Park, Md.

Imperial Blush (32)—A beautiful, large, blush-pink or silvery-lilac, with a creamy-pink irridescence. S. ruffled; F. rather long and drooping; one of the best of the pinks and a great favorite with nearly everyone.

Junaluska (30-32)—S. light coppery-red suffused rose; F. a rich deep red. Of good size and superb form; it is a new red blend that has received universal praise and was the second choice for the Dykes medal in '38. Both this and Copper Lustre are generally conceded to be among the finest of the new varieties.

Omaha (26)—Fairly large blooms of soft pink and red tones; an attractive color combination.

San Diego (38)—Very large, almost immense, blooms of a medium dark blue-purple coloring. Color is largely like Mme. Gaudichau, with the size and shape of El Capitan.

Shah Jehan (30)—An extraordinary blending of colors, striking and rich: S. straw-colored, with lavender edges; F. red-brown, blending to purple and then edged bright lavender. Medium size and a late bloomer. We think this is one of the prettiest and richest of the recent varieties.

Tapestry (30)—Blend of smoky-mulberry with reddish falls; the dominant tone is dull reddish-purple instead of the bluish-purple of Persia. Blooms almost immense in size.

Thuratus (28)—Very large and very dark plum-purple, with rather long, drooping falls. Admired by many for its dark, rich color.

Treasure Island (34)—S. pure gold, broad and domed; F. bright, rich yellow, with a blush of white at the haft which adds life and a clean-cut appearance to the flower in no wise detracting from its beauty; rich orange beard, large and tall. A new introduction from the Pacific Coast and comes to us highly recommended. A limited stock throughout the country accounts for the price we have to ask. No purple flecks have been seen by us and there should be none, for it has no W. R. Dykes blood in it, and, besides, is much more vigorous in growth than the latter.

Periwinkle (32)—A Siberian iris of bright violet-blue in two blended shades of this color; somewhat larger than the average variety in this class and one of the best. Liked by all who see it just as Grey Prince and Llewellyn are.

Comments of the Season

Among the new yellow varieties, Treasure Island, blooming for the first time in our gardens, gives promise of being among the very best ones and may prove to be at the top or else among the few that attain that high rank; it is still among the higher-priced ones. Happy Days has about the richest coloring of all the large ones and is a giant in size, perhaps almost too large, with standards lacking a little in stiffness, though in higher altitudes than Washington, D. C. (just outside of which city we are located), or in cooler climates the bloom will probably stand the hot sun better. At its present price it is certainly worth having and trying. Lucrezia Bori is a large cream and yellow bloom with falls none too broad, and it is held at a rather high price, quality considered, in our opinion. Some of the other new yellows, Golden Bear, Golden Treasure, Lady Paramount, Robert, Claude Aureau, Jelloway, etc., while quite pretty or very nice, as the case may be, seem hardly needed if your garden possesses Treasure Island, Happy Days, Alta California, Coronation, Rayo de Sol, etc.

Of the whites, Venus de Milo and Winter Morn, prices considered, are among the best and, besides, are consistently good performers. Crystal Beauty and Snowking, as seen in other gardens, seem to us to have been overrated—the former being no better than Winter Morn and higher priced, while the latter, though large and fine, is on a stalk too short for the size of the bloom, besides being pretty high-priced; it seems hardly worth what is being asked for it. Purissima, still glorious when it blooms, remains very uncertain in this matter. Good new whites are now coming along fast—we ourselves have two or three promising seedlings, and it must indeed be a glorious one that at present is worth five dollars and upwards.

As to the pinks, Pink Satin has for three years now proven very disappointing and, to be fair, we cannot recommend it—Imperial Blush and Ethelwyn Dubuar are distinct improvements in our opinion. Our seedling, 718-1a, the same as last year, showed one of the best colorations of all, and 718-5 (priced at 30c), a deeper reddish pink, is worth having, not only for its coloring, but because it is among the last to go. Dream still holds its own among the pale ones.

As to Crown Prince, we like the older Beau Sabreur and Picador better.

Sensation, among the medium light blues, surprised us this season by blooming as well as any variety on the grounds, and has unusually good coloring. However, of all the medium blues, for coloring and shape, give us Dr. Chobaut above any we have ever seen and we are absolutely honest in this, but—and this is important—it lacks height, is only medium in size, and is one of the poorest performers in the entire garden. What tricks nature plays on us at times! A good job awaits the hybridizer who will give us a Dr. Chobaut without its undesirable characteristics.

Numa Roumestan, among the red-toned ones, cannot compare with Arabian Prince or Dauntless.

Of the bronze varieties, Bronze Glory still remains the bronziest bloom in the garden. One authority on the Pacific Coast calls it the finest bronze on the market and "no other variety approaches it in color hue." This is our own introduction, by the way, and it is now at a price available to all purses.

Among the Siberians, Llewellyn is very attractive in its smooth, even shade of medium dark blue, and Periwinkle, with its two tones of lighter blues, is really worth having.

Again, let us remind you that the late bloomers are of more than usual value in gardens, and keep in mind, on this account, Ambassadeur, Bronze Glory, Coronation, Daphne, Desert Dawn, Morning Splendor, Sachem, Topazin, and quite a few others mentioned elsewhere.